

P24194.A16

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3733

Appln. No: 10/659,297

Examiner: Pedro PHILOGENE

Filed: September 11, 2003

Confirmation No.: 3563

For: ROD CONNECTOR

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AF  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Final Official Action dated November 28, 2007, setting forth a three-month shortened statutory period for response to expire on February 28, 2008, and for which a Request for Extension of Time for one month is being filed concurrently herewith, setting the period for response to expire on March 28, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this Response.  
**Remarks** begin on page 3 of this Response.